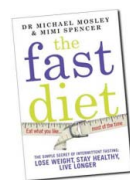


DAVIDSON HEADS TO BIG DANCE



WILDCATS WIN CONFERENCE TITLE, NCAA BERTH **SPORTS**



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ROBERT WILLETT - 2007 N&O FILE PHOTO
Marvin Austin told the office of the N.C. Secretary of State he got cash from a sports agent as a student.

Warrants: Cash paid to UNC athlete

Football star Marvin Austin said he received \$2,000 from a Georgia agent

BY ANNE BLYTHE AND DAN KANE
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A new round of details in the 3-year-old UNC athletics scandal was released Monday, revealing the damning image of a star UNC football player accepting a FedEx envelope filled with \$2,000 in cash.

Marvin Austin, the UNC football star whose tweets about partying in Miami launched the NCAA probe that resulted in sanctions, told special agents with the N.C. Secretary of State's office that he received the cash from a sports agent while enrolled as a student, according to search warrants unsealed Monday in Wake County Superior Court.

The warrants, which focus on Terry Shawn Watson, a sports agent based in the Atlanta area, offer a broad-brush look into the world of sports agents and their use of go-betweens to woo top professional prospects to their client lists.

Efforts to reach Watson on Monday were unsuccessful. UNC Chapel Hill officials declined to comment on details in the documents.

"We saw the search warrants for the first time today and are reviewing them," Bubba Cunningham, the UNC athletics director since November 2011, said in a statement. "It is not appropriate for anyone at the university to comment on the specifics of the Secretary of State's investigation of agent activity."

NCAA officials also declined to comment, saying they cannot discuss current, pending or potential investigations.

SEE UNC, 5A

Bill targets hospital prices

Hospitals bristle at proposal to ease way for same-day surgery centers performing routine procedures

BY AMES ALEXANDER
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Hospitals could face significantly more competition for routine surgeries under a bill that proponents say could save N.C. patients and taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. N.C. House Bill 177, sponsored by

three Republicans, would make it easier for physicians to open same-day surgery centers, offices that typically charge far less than hospitals for outpatient procedures.

Introduced two weeks ago, the legislation is already facing stiff opposition from the state's powerful hospital industry. The N.C. Hospital Association contends the bill would benefit a few doctors at the expense of hospitals, but would not cut costs or save state money.

The state severely limits the num-

ber of new operating rooms.

The bill's supporters say that's because North Carolina has one of the nation's most restrictive certificate of need (CON) programs. The CON laws were designed to prevent excessive facilities and equipment. But instead of reducing costs as intended, the bill's proponents say the program squelches competition and makes routine surgeries more expensive.

The new legislation aims to change that. Supporters say more competition is bound to help patients

ONLINE

Read the N.C. Hospital Association's full statement, and more from the bill's proponents, at charlotteobserver.com.

Read the Observer's Prognosis: Profits series at charlotteobserver.com/hospitals

and taxpayers.

"Lawmakers have a chance to give citizens relief from extraordinarily over-inflated hospital prices," said

SEE HOSPITALS, 5A

Airport office market perking up



PHOTOS BY TODD SUMLIN - tsumlin@charlotteobserver.com

Dirt is moving at the former Coliseum site on West Tyvola Road as construction starts on a 284-unit apartment complex expected to open in October.

Long-dormant W. Tyvola Road area seeing renewed signs of vigor, 'poised for a resurgence'



Owners of Coliseum Centre have put land under contract and plan to expand. They think they can recruit Northeast companies to the site.

BY KERRY SINGE
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Charlotte's once-bustling airport office district around West Tyvola Road, which has seen lackluster growth for more than a decade, could be on the cusp of a resurgence, brokers say.

For a time in the 1980s and '90s, that area was an epicenter of office leasing and corporate relocation, fueled by its available space, cheaper rents and proximity to Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The Charlotte Coliseum brought still more energy, drawing tens of thousands to Charlotte Hornets games and sellout concerts.

But vacancy rates rose in the early 2000s as developers built more office towers uptown and the Bissell Cos. created a new office park in Ballan-

tyne. The Hornets left for New Orleans and the coliseum was imploded, the land sold to a developer.

Now, the airport office market, the city's second-largest by square footage, is seeing renewed signs of vigor.

Investors are buying buildings. Some large tenants have expanded or renewed leases. And work is finally under way at the former coliseum site where the land, slated for a large mixed-use project, sat dormant for nearly six years.

Among the recent highlights:

Last year the real estate investment and management arm of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. bought seven buildings in LakePointe Office Park for \$75 million. Starwood Capital Group purchased two buildings in LakePointe Corporate Center for

SEE WEST TYVOLA, 7A

64° 37°

Today: Decreasing clouds.
Wednesday: 54/29, sunny, 8D

Ask Amy	7D
Business	2B
Classified	7B
Comics	6-7D
Editorial	6A
Horoscope	6D
Lottery	1B
Obituaries	5B
Sports	1C
TV	2D
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JEFF J MITCHELL - GETTY

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, left, arrives for the final congregation Monday before the conclave to vote for a new pope.

VOTING FOR NEW POPE TO BEGIN

Cardinals offered wildly different assessments of what they're looking for and how close they are to a decision. Voting starts Tuesday. **4A**

Report: Airport transfer wouldn't affect bonds

Supporters of an authority said the report should remove a hurdle to the change. **1B**

Rent struggles close school

Landlord says franchise-holders of Goodard School in northeast Charlotte owe more than \$60,000. **1B**

Chiquita lost \$408M in '12

The loss came as the company restructured its business. **Business, 2B**

Wells Fargo among 6 biggest buys for Warren Buffett

Shares of IBM, DirectTV, General Motors also among his purchases. **2B**

Scholar candidate moves beyond her disability

Providence High senior Rebecca Combs, who has cerebral palsy, is nominated for U.S. Presidential Scholars program. **Young Achievers, 4-5D**

Local woman's voice mail tale leads to an NPR honor

BY PAM KELLEY
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Charlotte writer Lisa Rubenson's gem of a short story, "Sorry for Your Loss," made its debut Saturday evening on National Public Radio. "Hi,

it's me - Christine," it began. "I can't believe you still have this number."



Rubenson

The piece beat out more than 4,000 entries to win NPR's latest Three-Minute Fiction contest. NPR reporter Tamara Keith read the story on Saturday's "Weekend All Things Considered" program.

Not a bad way for a writer to get noticed. The Three-Minute Fiction contest

periodically gives listeners a writing prompt and challenges them to construct an extremely short story - no more than 600 words. The latest prompt: Submit a story in the form of a voice mail message.

When she heard the prompt, Rubenson, who works as a freelance writer and writes fiction in her spare time, considered all the rambling messages that she has left, then decided to give it a go.

She thought about the awkwardness of reconnecting with someone who knew you at a much younger age, when you were both different people. She also contemplated how people often don't say things that need to be said and blur things best left unsaid.

In her story, a woman named

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